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DT-6598

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Eckhard Bez et al.  
SERIAL NO.: 10/671,072  
FILED : September 24, 2003  
FOR : VALVE ARRANGEMENT FOR A VACUUM PUMP  
EXAMINER: Tuan N Nguyen GROUP: 3751

**Mail Stop: AMENDMENT  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**ELECTION**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 14, 2005 and setting forth a one-month period for response. The Examiner has requested that an election be made of different species, nameley,

Species I: the embodiment of Fig. 1a;

Species II: the embodiment of Fig. 1b;

Species III: the embodiment of Fig. 1c;

Species IV the embodiment of Fig. 2;

Species V the embodiment of Fig. 5; and

Species VI: the embodiment of Fig. 6.

Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, the species I, the embodiment of Figs. 1a for further prosecution on the merits. Claims 1-3 and 9-10 read on the embodiment of Figs. 1a.

#### TRAVERSE

The Examiner's requirement for election between the embodiments of Figs. 1a, 1b, 1c, 2, 5, and 6 is respectfully traversed. All of the embodiments implement the same inventive concept, namely, forming the valve spring that biases a valve head into an abutment engagement with a valve seat, as a hollow body formed of an elastomeric material. The search of prior art for all of the embodiments will clearly be co-extensive.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the requirement for election be withdrawn, and an Office Action on the merits directed to all of the embodiments, claims 1 through 10, be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 11, 2005

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail and addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 11, 2005.

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